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Rosettes & Ribbons: Some Recent Accomplishments of Note at the School

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Dr. Kathryn Michel, assistant professor of nutrition and chief, Section of Medicine, was honored by the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care with an Award for Scientific Achievement for contributions in critical care nutrition. She shares this award with Lisa Freeman of Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Gerhard Schad, professor of parasitology, was elected Honorary Member of the Helminthological Society of Washington in October. He chaired a symposium on the molecular and neurobiology of parasitic nematodes and gave a paper on the same subject at the meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in Denver in November.

Dr. Sue McDonnell, associate professor of reproduction, is the author of *A Practical Field Guide to Horse Behavior: The Equid Ethogram*, published by Eclipse Press. The book is based on studies of equid behavior under natural and feral conditions. It includes the work of many Penn veterinary students and alumni on behavior in NBC's semi-feral pony herd (**Elizabeth Ewaskiewicz, V'98**, **Michael Fugaro, V'97**, **Melissa Lutz, V'99**, **Samantha Murray, V'01**, **Amy E. Poulin, V'04**).

Dr. McDonnell was a speaker on behavioral topics at the AAEP meeting in Orlando in December.

Dr. Eric Birks, assistant professor of sports medicine, received a grant from EquATec, Inc. in support of his study on inhaled nitric oxide.

Dr. Mike Ross, professor of surgery, is co-author with Sue J. Dyson of *Diagnosis and Management of Lameness in the Horse*, published W.W. Saunders. This comprehensive text book consists of 130 chapters divided into ten parts and comes with an integral CD-ROM that allows the reader to see video clips of a variety of the conditions referred to in its pages. While it is a detailed text book that any equine specialist will find very useful, it is also a book that may have its uses as a reference work for any horse-owner, trainer or stable manager.

Dr. David Nunamaker, V'68, Jacques Jenny Professor of Surgery, presented the Milne State of the Art Lecture at the AAEP meeting in December in Orlando. He presented two topics: On Bucked Shins, and On Bone and Fracture Treatment in the Horse. Dr. Nunamaker is the seventh person selected to give the Milne

Lecture.

Three faculty members were promoted to full professor: **Dr. Robert J. Washabau, V'82**, to professor of medicine, **Dr. Mattie J. Hendrick, V'78**, to professor of pathology, and **Dr. James Ferguson, V'81**, to professor of medicine.

Dr. Pamela Wilkins, assistant professor of medicine, presented a paper at the AAEP Meeting in Orlando entitled, Botulism in Foals: A Survivable Disease. Dr. Wilkins and **Dr. Brett Dolente, V'96**, instructor in medicine, received a \$30,000 three-year grant from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Research Foundation to study the effect of low molecular weight heparin treatment in horses with diarrhea and disseminated intravascular coagulation.

Dr. Adrian R. Morrison, professor of behavioral neuroscience, delivered an invited lecture in March at the Congress of the Federation of Latin American Sleep Societies in Mexico.

Dr. Corinne Sweeney, professor of medicine, current president of the American Association

Safety Association and Applied Research Ethics National Association in San Diego in February 2003. Dr. Benson presented these topics: Special issues with transgenic animals, IBC's, and Institutional Animal Care and Use committees and Effective organizational models: reporting, structure, staffing, responsible officials and more.

In March 2003, Dr. Benson gave a talk at the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture meeting.

Dr. Craig Clifford, resident in oncology, recently received a grant from the Winn Feline Foundation for a project entitled "Plasma vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) concentrations and tumor VEGF expression in cats with vaccine associated sarcomas (VAS)." Co-investigators include **Drs. Karin Sorenmo** and **Ken Drobatz**. Dr. Clifford presented talks at the Iams Imaging Symposium in April and at the AAHA Symposium in March in Phoenix.

Dr. Gary Smith wrote, produced and directed a pantomime in the British style called

"Aladdin and his Magical Lamp." It played to rapturous applause (alright, a few people clapped) for three nights in January. Dr. Smith also gave a talk on agroterrorism to the New York Farmers Club at the Union Club in New

York City in February.

Dr. James Serpell, Marie A. Moore Associate Professor of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare, received a grant of \$34,000 from the AKC Canine Health Foundation to help with the development of new methods for measuring behavior and behavioral problems in dogs. Together with Symme Trachtenberg of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the School of Social Work, he has also been offered a grant of \$96,664 from the Annenberg Foundation's Sunnyslands Trust for a new initiative to explore the potential of animal-assisted therapeutic interventions in the treatment of adolescent mental disorders. Some of these funds will be used to support a major conference on the topic in March 2004.

Dr. Robert Eckroade, associate professor of pathology, presented a paper at the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Avian Influenza Workshop held at the PDRC in Athens, Ga. in November. Dr. Eckroade was appointed to the USDA's task force on Exotic Newcastle Disease and traveled to California in

Rosettes & Ribbons

some recent accomplishments of note at the School

of Veterinary Clinicians (AAVC), hosted the organization's annual Department Heads & Hospital Directors meeting on the Penn campus in March 2003. The mission of the AAVC is to enhance the quality of and be an advocate for veterinary clinical teaching, service, and research. The AAVC administers the Internship and Residency Matching Program. Dr. Sweeney in 2003 was named a National Academies of Practice Distinguished Practitioner.

Dr. Charles Benson, professor of microbiology, **Dr. Gary Smith**, professor of population biology and epidemiology, and **Dr. Helen Aceto, V'97**, made presentations on rapid diagnostic/detection systems at the 2003 Penn Annual Conference in the session, "Agroterrorism and Biosecurity of the Food Supply."

Dr. Benson was an invited participant at a conference, "The future faces of Institutional Biosafety Committees: Evolving roles and responsibilities, upcoming challenges and opportunities," sponsored by the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities, NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, American Biological

February to review the progress.

Dr. Margret Casal, assistant professor of medical genetics, and **Dr. Paula Henthorn**, associate professor of medical genetics, received a grant renewal from the AKC Canine Health Foundation for their study, Cricopharyngeal Dysphagia in the Golden Retriever. Dr. Casal also received a five-year grant from the NIH/NIAMS for her study, A canine model for human X-linked ectodermal dysplasia.

Dr. Jill Beech, V'72, Georgia E. and Philip B. Hofmann Professor in Equine Medicine and Reproduction, presented a lecture on equine myopathies at the 5th Meeting of Flemish Horse Practitioners in Ghent, Belgium, last year. Dr. Beech gave a talk, Comparison of Hormonise® (Vitex castus agnus extract) and pergolide in treatment of Equine Cushing's Syndrome, at the AAEP meeting in Orlando in December. She gave a talk, Medical Problems of Performance Horses, at "Meet the Veterinary Experts" horse health symposium at the Jockey Club, Palm Beach Equestrian Club, in West Palm Beach in February. In September, she presented a lecture, Inherited Neurological Diseases, Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis, at the International meeting of the European Society of Veterinary Neurology, held in Philadelphia.

Dr. Gail Smith, V'74, professor of surgery, is on leave as chair of the Department of Clinical Studies-Philadelphia through June to oversee

Check-ups for pets

Spring is an excellent time to review the vaccination status of pets. Puppies and kittens need to have complete sets of puppy and kitten shots; young animals need their adult boosters; and adults need their booster shots too. Check with your veterinarian about the proper vaccination regimen for your dog and cat. Spring is also the time for a heartworm check for the dog – again, your veterinarian can perform the blood test and provide the preventive medication to keep the pet heartworm-free. To protect your pet against flea and tick bites, consult your veterinarian about monthly flea and tick preventives. Your veterinarian knows your cat or dog and is the best source for such preventives.

Dr. Leon Saunders, who served for many years as adjunct professor of pathology at the School, recently was awarded the Cheiron medal. It is the highest international award that can be presented to a historian of veterinary medicine. Dr. Saunders was honored for devoting 30 years to a rigorous international research program. He is the first American to be so recognized. The medal was presented by Dr. Philip M. Teigen, deputy chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine. Shown here are Dr. Teigen and Dr. Saunders.



the transitioning of PennHIP back to Penn. A PennHIP seminar was held in association with the 2003 Penn Annual Conference in January. PennHIP seminars will also be held in conjunction with the AVMA meeting in July and the ACVS meeting in October. Since the program returned to Penn, utilization of the screening method has increased markedly. Dr. Smith presented talks at the 2nd Annual National Detector Dog Training Conference in December, the North American Veterinary Conference in January, and Western Veterinary Conference and the Veterinary Orthopaedic Society in February.

Dr. Michelle Powers, PennHIP fellow, and **William Culp, V'04**, gave presentations at the Veterinary Orthopedic Society meeting in Steamboat Springs, Colo., in February.

Dr. Joan Hendricks, V'79, Henry and Corrine R. Bower Professor of Small Animal Medicine, is serving as Interim Chair, Clinical Studies-Philadelphia, until June 30.

Dr. Brett Dolente, V'96, instructor in medicine, received funding from AVMA Foundation and Bernice Barbour Foundation to begin a clinical trial using a novel heparin in horses with coagulopathies. She presented a talk at the 2003 Camelid Conference at Oregon State University in March on critically ill camelid neonates and hepatic lipidosis.

Dr. Amy J. Alwood, resident in critical care, and her collaborators, **Drs. Lori Waddell, Cynthia Otto, Kim Slensky** of Penn and Dr. Marjorie Brooks of Cornell, were awarded a Winn Feline Foundation Research Grant. The grant of \$15,000 under Winn's Ricky Fund is for the

investigation of the effects of low molecular weight heparins on coagulation in normal cats. This is expected to provide the basis for future clinical applications and use of low molecular weight heparins in cats with cardiomyopathy and/or saddle thrombus (aortic thromboembolism).

Marsha Finkelman, Ellen Lomastro, Larry Nann, Wendy Curtis-Uhle, and Bethanne Walters, all veterinary technicians specializing in anesthesia, either at the Ryan Veterinary Hospital or at the Widener Hospital, were members of the Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists organizing committee, and were among the first group of technicians who were officially granted certification as Veterinary Technician Specialists in Anesthesia.

Scholarships

The Penn Treaty Kennel Club Scholarship was awarded to **Dana Clarke, V'06**. **Brett Begely, V'03** is the recipient of the Clifford R. Wright, Jr. Scholarship. The Richard A. Dorr, Jr. Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Lisa Berstine, V'03**. **Daniel Kirsch, V'06** received the Philip E. Potter Foundation Scholarship. **Rebecca Kensinger, V'03** received the Hart Clinics Proficiency (IDEXX) Scholarship. **Emily Jones, V'05** was awarded a scholarship by the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Company.